

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and Fig. 3 are amended to correct informalities. No new matter is added by this amendment.

I. Information Disclosure Statements

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that all of the references cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on February 18, 2004 and August 11, 2004 have been considered. Applicant confirms that reference no. 28 cited in the August 11, 2004 Information Disclosure Statement is U.S. Publication No. US 2003/0198102A1.

II. Specification

The Office Action objects to the specification because of a grammatical informality. The specification is amended as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

III. Drawings

The drawings are objected to because the reference characters "50" and "80" have both been used to designate the middle line of the group labeled "50(ALC)" in Fig. 3. Fig. 3 is amended as suggested by the Examiner. Thus, withdrawal of the objection is requested.

IV. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,898,120 (Natori). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Natori does not qualify as prior art under any section of 35 U.S.C. §102 because Applicant's priority date proceeds the filing date of Natori. The U.S. filing date of Natori is December 8, 2003. However, the present application was filed on February 28, 2004 and claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-044289, which was filed on February 21, 2003. The priority was claimed in the present application on February 18, 2004, and was acknowledged by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Attached hereto is an

accurate English-language translation of the priority document. As the instant claims are fully supported by the priority document, Natori is not prior art to the present application.

Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

V. Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1, 3 and 4 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 and 4 of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/782,975 (which corresponds to Publication No. US 2004/0232474A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant attaches hereto a Terminal Disclaimer to obviate this provisional rejection.

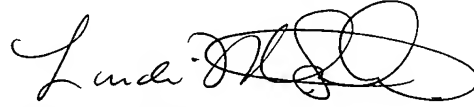
Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:LMS/hs

Attachments:

Replacement Sheet
English-Language Translation of Japanese Patent Application No. 2003-044289
Terminal Disclaimer

Date: February 1, 2006

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 3 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet